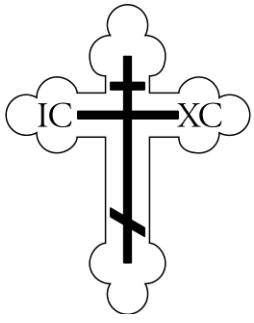
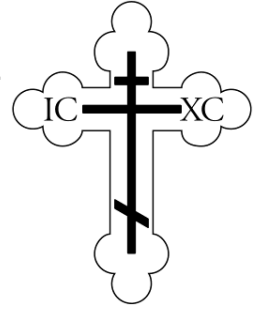


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



A Parish of the  
Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



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(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto:frjacobvansickle@gmail.com)

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or  
after Vespers or by appointment

**Welcome visitors!**  
**Please join us in the**  
**parish hall after Divine**  
**Liturgy for coffee hour.**

## May 1, 2022 Thomas Sunday

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada and was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the holy Twelve Apostles of the Savior.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. "My Lord and my God," the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). "Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles," says St John Chrysostom, "toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and

tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations.”

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed “The Doubting Thomas.” This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, “The Touching of Thomas.” In Slavonic, it says, “The Belief of Thomas.” When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr’s death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur [Melipur], the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, in Hungary and on Mt. Athos.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 7 – Troparion of Thomas Sunday**

From the sealed tomb, You shone forth, O Life!  
Through closed doors You came to Your Disciples, O Christ God.  
Renew in us, through them, an upright spirit,//  
by the greatness of Your mercy, O Resurrection of all!

### **Tone 8 – Kontakion of Thomas Sunday**

Thomas touched Your life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,  
when You came to Your Apostles through closed doors.//  
He cried out with all: “You are my Lord and my God!”

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Tone 3 – Prokeimenon of Thomas Sunday (Psalm 146)**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power,  
His understanding is beyond measure!

### **Epistle: Acts 5.12-20**

At that time, through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and

couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

### **Gospel: John 20.19-31**

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So, he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written

that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**New Dep.** Archbishop Paul

Ronald Birch

**Ev.Mem.** Makary Litotsky ('19)

Theophil Pahunok ('23)

Elizabeth Dimoff ('39)

Tekla Kepchar ('45)

Mary Markovich ('45)

Peter Evolga ('49)

### **Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Jennifer

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Mark

Jerry

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Ryan

Snezana

Christine

Nathan

Kara

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Ayden

Hyland

Jason

Ted

James

Pamela

Alexander

Ronald

Ken

William

Wanda

Ivanka

Aaron

Karen

Sandra

Linda

Jim

John

Martha

Mark

Michelle

Irene

Michelle

Erika

Luke

Jo

Stephanie

Mary Ann

Robb

Desiree

Hanna

Jaroslava

Andrew

Andrew

Vadim

Hanna

Helen Maria

Alex

Carl

Laura

Chrisan

Janice

Gerald

Olga

Janie

David

Sharon

Tanya

Renee

Carissa

Ashton

Matthew

Doris

Laura

Duane

Elizabeth

Karen

\*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

## **Special Petitions for Ukraine at the Augmented Litany:**

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Your peace and Your mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Your people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of the Church, so that by Your goodness, peace may return to all peoples; O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We also pray You, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Russia and Ukraine, who are involved in violent conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

### **Paschal Theotokion (*Instead of "It is Truly Meet..."*)**

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:  
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,  
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead."  
Rejoice, O you people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.  
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,  
in the Resurrection of your Son!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

After venerating the cross, we will serve the **7-day Memorial for Archbishop Paul**. May His memory be eternal!

Thank you to all who worked and attended the O-Club's **Trivia Night Fundraiser for Ukrainian refugees** on Friday. Turn-out was modest, but it was a very fun evening for all present, and we were able to raise close to \$1,600.

For **Bible Study** this week, read **1 Maccabees 10-12**.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 4**, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. The proceeds will be used for the continuation, support, and development of various Church projects, which reach out to the

community. Hole sponsors (\$125) or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase banquet tickets (\$20 each), please see Rich or Linda Svihra or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

### **Mark your calendars:**

May 3: **Radonitsa ("Day of Rejoicing) Panikhida and picnic at St. Mary's cemetery @ 11am**

May 4: **Bible Study returns @ 7pm**

May 7: **Spring outdoor Church clean-up @ 9am (weather permitting, lunch provided)**

May 27: **Blood Drive, 12p - 6p**

May 30: **Memorial Day Grave Blessings starting at St. Mary's cemetery @ 9pm**

June 4: **Annual Golf Outing**

**Last week's (Pascha) gifts to the Lord:       \$3,895**

**Gifts to the Lord on Palm Sunday:       \$5,311**

# **Paschal Greetings**

**of His Grace, Bishop Daniel, locum tenens of our Diocese**

To the Esteemed Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful in the Diocese of the Midwest:

Beloved in the Lord,

I write these words of greeting to you after this morning's celebration of the Holy Thursday Vespereal Divine Liturgy in commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper. And, as I write, I am thinking of and praying for His Eminence Archbishop Paul, my brother and concelebrant and your beloved archpastor and Father in Christ. As you are aware, His Eminence is preparing to be called from this life-to-life eternal. I am sure you join me in praying that his repose will be painless, blameless, and peaceful and that, as we have sung and prayed this morning, the Lord will remember him in His Kingdom.

In a few short days, having commemorated the saving events of Christ's passion and death, we will gather in faith and proclaim the joyful words: Christ is Risen! What sweeter words could we proclaim after our difficult forty-day journey through Great and Holy Lent? What other words would we want to rest upon our souls after standing at the foot of the Cross with our Lord, and placing Him in the tomb? Dear brothers and sisters, let us never underestimate the power of these words that are the confirmation of our faith.

The God-protected Diocese of the Midwest has indeed experienced its own Golgotha these past several months. Your Archpastor, Archbishop Paul, was hastily taken from among his flock as he received a diagnosis that was sudden and severe. This gave him little to no time for what we would consider a proper send off. Rather, the trial of his life ended, and he was sent to cross. Even with this reality before us, we also are confronted with the reality that Holy Week does not stop on Great Friday, but continues, with haste, to the glorious resurrection of our Lord. This is a reality and joy that is eternal and cannot be taken away.

This life-giving moment in history is the very focus and identity of the witness of the Church, of pastoral ministry, and of each and every Christian who longs for the Lord.

In this light, our sadness and sorrows are transformed and given hope. Our attention to death and suffering can no longer maintain its hold as we are now given life and rest. We are comforted knowing that our funeral dirge is "Alleluia!" as we sing in the funeral service.

Rejoice on this day, my fellow sojourners, and know that the Lord hears you, sees you, and died because of His great love for you. Let the very words of "Christ is risen!" be our strength, our joy, and our light during the dark days of our earthly journey, reminding us that *He has overcome the world.*

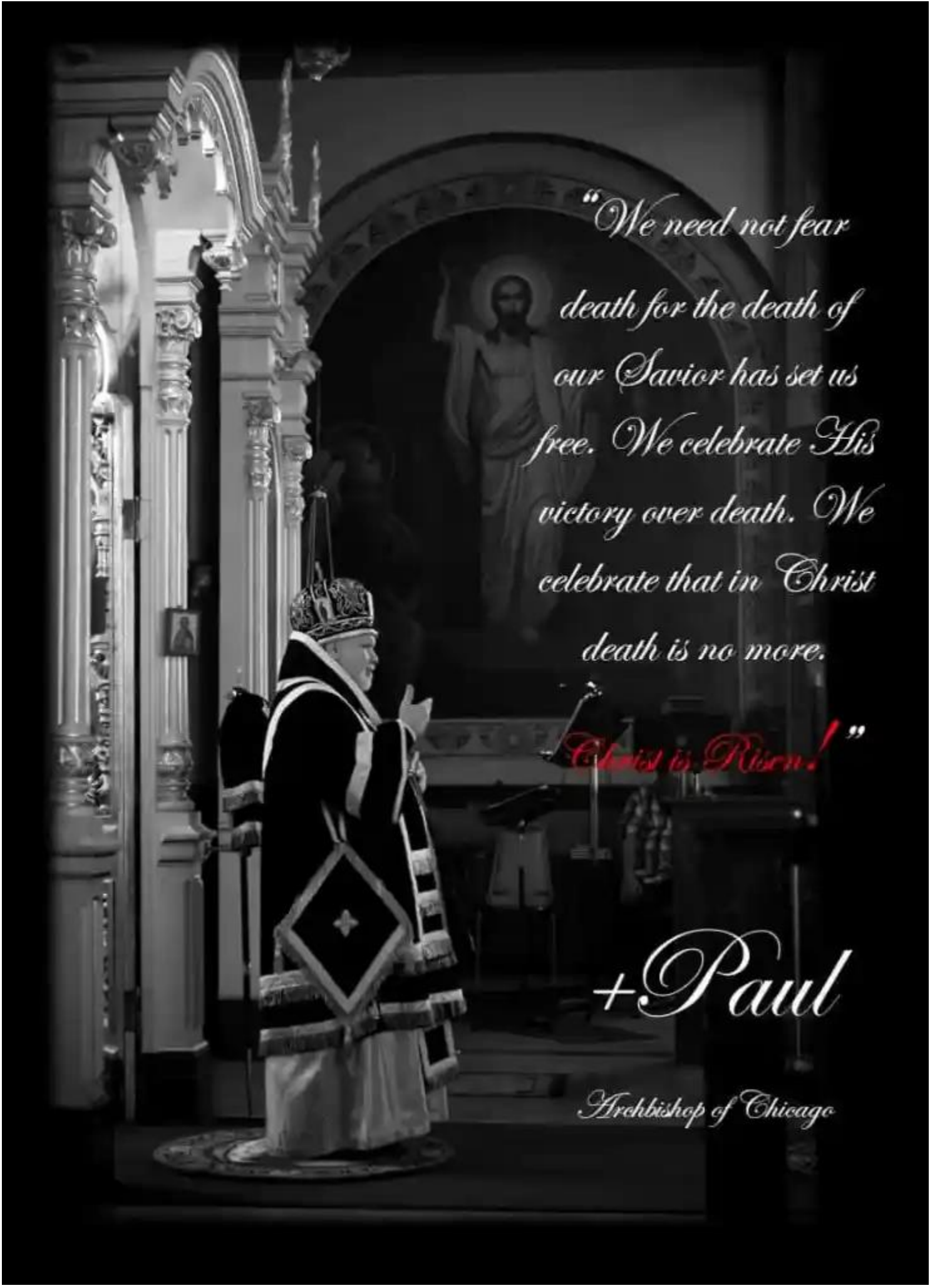
With continued prayers for you and yours,

In the Risen Lord,

†DANIEL

Bishop of Santa Rosa

Locum tenens of the Diocese of the Midwest



*"We need not fear death for the death of our Savior has set us free. We celebrate His victory over death. We celebrate that in Christ death is no more.*

*Christ is Risen!"*

*+Paul*

*Archbishop of Chicago*

**Glory to God for all things!**